Income tax benefits to parents/guardians of Physically Handicapped/Disabled Dependents

4552. SHRI P. SOUNDARARAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tax benefit's available to the parents and guardians of the physically handicapped and disabled dependents have since been rationalised as per the budget proposals for the year 1998-99; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this provision shall come into effect from the next year, i.e., 1999-2000; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government, in view of the hardships being faced by such parents and guardians, consider making this relief measure applicable w.e.f. 1st April, 1998 instead of from 1st April, 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI R. JANARTHANAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Under the present section 80-DD of the Income-tax Act, deduction in respect of medical treatment etc. of handicapped dependents is available upto a limit of Rs. 15,000 to their parents and guardians. Another section 80-DDA presently allows deduction in respect of deposits made for maintenance of handicapped dependent upto Rs. 20,000/-.

To allow flexibility as regards spending or depositing such amounts by the parents and guardians of handicapped dependents, these two sections are proposed to be merged into one composite section by the Finance Bill, 1998. The overall limit for deduction has also been raised to Rs. 40,000/-. This will enable the parents or guardians to get the deduction from income of the amounts spent upto Rs. 40,000/- either on the medical treatment or on deposits for maintenance of their handicapped dependents.

(b) No, Sir. Provisions of section 80-DD and 80-DDA already exist in the statute. However, the new modified composite provision shall come into force with effect from Assessment Year, 1999-2000 and will be applicable to the amounts spent or deposited during financial year, 1998-99 i.e. the current financial year.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Financial help of films in regional languages

4553. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gave financial help for making regional films for big screen, Telefilm, Video-cassettes etc. during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, language-wise; and

(c) the role of the NFDC in making and helping the films in regional languages?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) National Film Development Corporation Ltd (NFDC) is a development body which has been giving financial assistance for production of feature films in regional languages under its various schemes. The NFDC does not extend financial assistance for the production of video cassettes. The details of the regional films produced during the last three years are given in the statement.

Statement

Language-wise list of films produced/ financed during last three years by NFDC (1995-96 to 1997-98)

Hindi

Rui Ka Bojh
Bandh Jharokhen
Sundari
Char Adhyay

Kalsandhya
Jaya Ganga
Sanshodhan
Partimurti
Naseem

Malayalam

Janmadhinam
Mangamma
Poothiruvathira Raavil
Atyunnathangalil Koodaram Panithavar
Shradham

Bengali

Attaja
Sanghat
Yugant
Nayantara

Marathi

Katha Doan Ganpatraonchi
Doghi
Limited Manuski
Bangarwadi

Manipuri

Sanabi

Telugu

Thodu
Stri

Oriya

Shesha Drushti

Tamil

Karuvelam Pookal

Punjabi

Train to Pakistan

Programmes to ensure peoples' participation in Ninth Plan

4554. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what plan, specific programmes have been organised by the official media units to ensure peoples' participation in the Ninth Plan since according to Pandit Nehru who ushered in the concept of planning in India, "Peoples' participation is the sanction behind a plan";

(b) what happened to the post of Advisor Information (Planning) in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting; whether it has been abolished or its being kept in abeyance; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the plan publicity, an important feature of planning is going by default in the absence of the post of Advisor Information (Planning)?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) In order to elicit peoples' participation in the Ninth Plan various schemes/projects have been undertaken by the media units through different modes of communication viz. Audio visual, print, outdoor, inter-personal, folk as also through news and newsbased programmes and press conferences, press briefings and conducted press tours. Information about the plan has also been disseminated in the programmes meant for special audiences like farmers, women, industrial workers and other sections of society. Inter-personal mode of communication is utilised through field publicity programmes for grassroots publicity of the Governments' plans and policies to elicit the peoples participation in development activities.

(b) At present there is no post of the Advisor (Information Planning) in the Ministry.

(c) No, Sir.

किशोरों में आत्महत्याओं की प्रवृत्ति

4555. **श्री सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा:**
श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 29 जून, 1998 के दैनिक "पायनियर" में, "चैलेंजिंग ट्रेंड इन टीनएजर सुसाइड" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह सच है कि दूरदर्शन और फिल्मों के माध्यम से आजकल अपरिपक्व नौजवानों में